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Bipartisan Accountability Committee introduces legislation to save over \$5 million by cutting thousands of unnecessary reports

Bill aims at making state information more accessible to the public

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – With bipartisan support, the state Assembly today approved legislation sponsored by the Assembly Committee on Accountability and Administrative Review that will eliminate outdated statutes requiring state agencies to produce hundreds of costly and unnecessary reports. The legislation also will update state agencies' reporting requirements to provide more information to the public.

The legislation, AB 1585, is expected to save the state more than \$5 million by reducing the workload of overburdened state agencies, allowing them to redirect resources to their core responsibilities. AB 1585 is sponsored by the Assembly Accountability Committee, which is charged with increasing efficiency and accountability in government. Assemblymember Hector De La Torre, D-South Gate, is chairman of the Committee.

"AB 1585 will allow the state to stop wasting time and money on reports that are no longer needed, saving the state money and allowing for better service to the public," De La Torre said. The bill was approved by a vote of 56-0 in the Assembly today and now moves to the state Senate.

AB 1585 seeks to rewrite statutes that require state agencies to produce over 1,200 obsolete reports, such as quarterly reports describing the state's response to the Year 2000 computer crisis. Based on information gathered at a public hearing by the Committee and with input from state agencies and legislative committees, the bill will eliminate requirements that state agencies produce reports that are duplicative, unnecessary or outdated.

The legislation also will update the method the state uses to compile reports from different agencies, by requiring an electronic copy of the report be available on the Legislative Counsel's website. In addition, the bill requires that any new report requested by the Legislature include a sunset date, so that no reports are required annually or regularly past a certain date.

Background:

The Assembly Committee on Accountability and Administrative Review was created this year to investigate inefficiencies and reduce costs in state government. The committee has held nine hearings and identified million of dollars in savings, as well as pushing for administrative changes in government to increase efficiency and accountability.